



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANUFACTURING METH

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to manufacturing methamphetamine.

Joyce Yvonne Reynolds, 26, of Columbia, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Reynolds** admitted that she participated in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine from as early as Jan. 13, 2003, to Feb. 14, 2003 in Boone and Callaway counties in Missouri.

Reynolds was arrested at meth labs in Callaway County on Jan. 13, 2003, and in Boone County on Feb. 14, 2003.

During a vehicle search on Jan. 13, 2003, law enforcement officers found methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, precursor chemicals and other items used in the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine.

At about 1 a.m. on Feb. 14, 2003, law enforcement officers investigated a chemical smell coming from a room at the Midway Budget Inn in Boone County, where **Reynolds** had been staying. Due to the hazardous chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, the Boone County Haz Mat unit was called and the adjoining rooms were evacuated. When law enforcement officers searched the room, Graves said, they found methamphetamine, precursor chemicals, and many items used in the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine. They also found walkie talkies, a police scanner and a pair of night vision goggles.

Reynolds returned to the hotel room a few hours later, but fled the scene and was arrested

weeks later in Columbia.

Under federal statutes, **Reynolds** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million. Her sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Boone County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Callaway County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and MUSTANG (the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group).

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow